

Approved as Amended 3/11/15
OPEN SPACE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes
Meeting Date February 18, 2015

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Isaacson Shelley Dunbar Frances Hartogh Molly Davis Kevin Bracy Knight

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Tracy Winfree Jim Reeder Mark Gershman Phil Yates Kelly Wasserbach
Mike Orosel Don D'Amico Alyssa Frideres Lynn Riedel Steve Armstead
Leah Case

GUESTS PRESENT

Scott McCarey, Boulder County Transportation and Planning

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Approval of the Minutes

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from Dec. 10, 2014. Kevin Bracy Knight seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

Shelley said in the Jan. 14, 2015 minutes, on page three, it should say, “. . . specifically parking areas and the trailhead.” Shelley said in page four it should say, “Shelley asked if the owner would independently be able to divide this parcel on his/her own.”

Frances Hartogh moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the minutes from Jan. 14, 2015 as amended. Shelley Dunbar seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Public Participation for Items not on the Agenda

Suzanne Webel, spoke on behalf of Boulder County Horse Association (BCHA). She read a statement from Brian Joder highlighting some of his statements including his request that this process happen as quickly as possible. He said he would like to see this property opened to all user groups, and cooperation among user groups may help to speed up this process. He noted that some areas might be more suitable for certain uses. Suzanne said Boulder County has approved Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) to move forward with parking; at the very least staff should move forward on this right away.

Mike Barrow, on behalf of the Boulder Mountainbike Alliance (BMA), said that meeting with the stakeholder groups and digital town hall meetings will allow Open Space to bring forth the contentious issues on which to focus. This will also allow staff to gather meaningful feedback. That same approach should be applied to the North Trail Study Area (TSA).

Marcus Popetz, Boulder, said he felt that getting this process onto the internet would get more varied opinions and give those people that do not have the gumption to participate in what could be a contentious meeting an opportunity to do so.

Chuck Anderson, Boulder, said that he is new to Boulder but he has a long history with trail advocacy and conservation resources. Chuck said that Boulder has led the nation in Open Space conservation and he

would like to see Boulder lead with this public process as well. He agreed that using the internet provides more opportunity for people to be heard.

Brady Robinson, on behalf of Open Boulder, thanked staff for prioritizing the North TSA and is hoping for a less contentious and more collaborative public process. He said they hope for a public process where everyone feels that their opinions are valued. Brady said that recreation is not always at odds with conservation and if that the starting point, the process will not be any better than it was for the West TSA. He said since Joder is a new addition, staff should have special sessions to work on it outside of the North TSA process, including the parking issue for equestrian use. Brady asked that staff re-evaluate the Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) designation for the Joder property.

Mark McIntyre, Boulder, said that he is excited to see that improving the visitor experience is on the work plan. He said something to add to this section would be eliminating unnecessary gates and fences in the North TSA. He said they create maintenance issues and have a negative effect on the user experience. Staff should install cattle guards instead of gates and fences. He said he supports the expansion of the dog waste program.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Staff Updates

Tracy Winfree, Interim Director, announced that the 2014 Annual Report is out in hard copy and available online. She also gave an update on the Voice and Sight program numbers to date.

Frances asked if dog guardians are getting a clear message of what Voice and Sight is, and if there is a number people can call if they witness a violation of the rules. Staff said if it is outside of regular business hours, people can call the non-emergency dispatch phone for the City of Boulder. Tom Isaacson asked if staff has numbers on how many tickets have been issued for Voice and Sight violations to date. Tracy said staff can bring that back to the Board. Frances asked if the ranger presence has increased on weekends proportionate to use. Tracy said staff would bring this information back as well.

2015 Work Plan

Tracy Winfree presented information on the 2015 Work Plan.

Kevin said he would have liked to see more information regarding redesigning, rebuilding or rerouting trails as part of Improving the Visitor Experience. He asked for the 2016 bike patrol training to be moved to quarter one, to better fit schedules. Shelley asked if there would be a study session for the Agricultural Resource Management Plan. Tracy said yes. Tom asked if there was some discussion about doing trail work on Four Pines. Jim Reeder said that it is not a 2015 project but it may show up in 2016. Frances said one item that deserves focus is recovering and improving existing trails. She noted that seeing wildlife is a big part of the visitor experience, and would like an effort to be made for this to continue. Molly said the work plan is really good. She asked where the Acquisition Plan falls within the priorities. Tracy said in Core Services.

Progress Reports on Projects

Jim Reeder, Land and Visitor Services Division Manager, gave an update on the Joder Property.

Frances asked if the horse trailer parking would be fast-tracked. Jim said parking would happen at the same time as the interim trail from the highway. Shelley asked about the neighbor who had an easement on the property. Tracy said that easement has been extinguished. Frances asked if the imperiled species, particularly the butterflies, were dispersed all over the property. Steve Armstead said this habitat is associated with certain types of grasses that exist all across the property. Frances asked if the construction of the interim trail would disrupt those species. Steve responded that the interim trail is on an old road base and has seen previous activity.

Frances asked how many permits have been issued to the public for access to this property. Tracy said she will ask staff to follow up with this information. Frances asked if permits are issued with any guidance as far as protecting the land. Tracy said she believes that a staff escort is required. Frances said it would be worth looking at this process to ensure the land is being protected. Molly said the timeline for gathering data on this property seems too quick, especially with staff being so busy.

Jim Reeder gave an update on Skunk Canyon, Bear Canyon and Chapman Drive.

Tom asked if there was going to be some sort of flood control installed in Chapman Drive. Jim said yes. Frances asked if staff plans to fill in the fire road on South Shanahan. Jim said there are no plans for that right now, but staff can take a look at it.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Matters from the Board

Frances asked that staff prepare a discussion on HCA designations and explain the criteria. She said she would like to hear about what goes into these recommendations, especially for properties that have had prior use.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – Recommendation to dispose of an interest in Open Space lands pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 177 through the grant of an easement to Public Service Company of Colorado for three power pole support beams on the ~~East Rudd~~ Open Space property that were required to be relocated by the construction of the Boulder County/Colorado Department of Transportation road improvements on State Highway 93.*

Jim Schmidt, Property Agent, gave a presentation to the Board on a possible disposal. The memo is incorrect; it is on the Stanger Open Space property rather than East Rudd. The correct information was in the public notice.

Public Comment

None.

Return to the Board

No further comment.

Motion

Shelley Dunbar moved the Open Space Board of Trustees to approve the disposal of an interest in Open Space lands pursuant to Boulder City Charter Section 177 through the grant of an easement to Public Service Company of Colorado for three power pole support beams on the Stanger Open Space property that were required to be relocated by the construction of the Boulder County/CDOT road improvements on SH 93. Frances Hartogh seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – Consideration of a motion to recommend that City Council authorize an Intergovernmental Agreement with Boulder County for design and construction of the extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path.*

Jim Reeder gave a presentation to the Board regarding the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Boulder County.

Kevin asked if this path would extend all the way to the tunnel. Jim said that is a possibility; they have talked about potential access to Betasso and Four Mile but a lot will depend on cost of construction. Tracy said that the IGA is not about approving a final design; this is a recommendation from the Board to City Council. Molly asked if OSMP would patrol this path. Tracy said no, it would be the county.

Public Comment

Suzanne Webel, on behalf of BCHA, said that part of the IGA should contain provisions for trailhead parking. She said the Board has a letter from BCHA outlining why they feel so strongly that the Schnell property be used as horse trailer parking. The Community Collaborative Group (CCG), OSBT and council directed in the West TSA plan to include trailer parking at trailheads.

Mike Barrow, on behalf of BMA, said the IGA was awesome and he had not expected this to happen in his lifetime. This is the one silver lining resulting from the 2013 floods; the reason things are coming together is because the road needs to be completely redone. This extension is sorely needed and highly desired for the recreational experience of regional trails coming out of Boulder.

Linda Parks, Boulder, said she would love to see horse trailer space at Chapman Drive and for people to be able to reserve a spot ahead of time. She said trailhead parking is a priority.

Return to the Board

The Board agreed that horse parking is not an IGA issue. Tom said that the Board will find a more appropriate time to discuss this process in an informed way. Kevin noted that he really liked the online reservation idea for trailhead horse trailer parking; it would be a nice system to have in place and would help in understanding the volume of use.

Frances asked if this plan can be modified if it becomes too expensive. Jim said not without having to go back to council. Frances asked if the county would be responsible for the maintenance. Tracy said yes. Frances said if it is worded that the county has sole discretion to maintain, she is concerned that OSMP is giving up the right to do any maintenance or enforce that the county maintain. Jim said he does not believe that this wording will prevent OSMP from going out and clearing snow or improving the path. Molly asked if the OSMP rangers are going to be monitoring that area. Tracy said that the county would be patrolling that area.

Motion

Kevin Bracy Knight moved the Open Space Board of Trustees recommend City Council authorize the attached Intergovernmental Agreement with Boulder County for design and construction of the extension of the Boulder Creek Bike Path. Molly Davis seconded. This motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

These minutes were prepared by Alyssa Frideres.